

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manipulating and updating data in a backend system ~~using an automated agent~~, said apparatus comprising:

a messaging client for exchanging messages over a network with a messaging server to and from other messaging clients and said backend system;
and

said automated agent, wherein said ~~an~~ automated agent which is coupled to ~~between~~ said messaging server; and

said backend system, wherein said backend system is coupled to said automated agent which is capable of accepting requests and issuing responses, and which obtains and uses data input from said messaging clients to determine said manipulating and updating of data.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein said automated agent initiates messaging communications to said plurality of other entities messaging clients and mediates a discussion related to said input data.

65. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said automated agent appears as a buddy on a buddy list.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein said ~~automated agent~~ initiates ~~messaging communications to other messaging clients~~ are associated with prospective meeting attendees and ~~mediates a said discussion relateds to said a~~ meeting of said attendees.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said automated agent is capable of responding with any of, but not limited to: information, confirmation, availability, and a request for additional information.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said messaging client exchanges messages via said network with said messaging server by any of, but not limited to:

two-way messaging in real-time and/or non-real-time;
email in real-time and/or non-real-time;
a paging network in one-way and/or two-way in near-real-time; and
instant messaging systems in two-way in real-time.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said messaging clients engages in a dialogs with said automated agent.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said automated agent performs any of:

proactively sending messages to said messaging client, said messages comprising, but not limited to, alertings and reminders;
asking a series of questions to said messaging client to determine intent; and
determining resource availability.

13. (Currently amended) A method for manipulating and updating data in a backend system using an automated agent, said method comprising:

providing a messaging client for exchanging messages over a network with a messaging server to and from other messaging clients and said backend system;
and

providing said automated agent, wherein said an automated agent which is coupled to between said messaging server; and

providing said backend system, wherein said backend system is coupled to said automated agent which is capable of accepting requests and issuing responses, and which obtains and uses data input from said messaging clients to determine said manipulating and updating of data.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~45~~13, wherein said automated agent initiates messaging communications to said ~~plurality of other entities~~messaging clients and mediates a discussion related to said input data.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said automated agent appears as a buddy on a buddy list.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~43~~16, wherein said automated agent ~~initiates messaging communications to other messaging clients~~are associated with prospective meeting attendees and mediates a~~said~~discussion relateds to said a~~meeting of said attendees.~~

19. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said automated agent is capable of responding with any of, but not limited to: information, confirmation, availability, and a request for additional information.

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said messaging client exchanges messages via said network with said messaging server by any of, but not limited to:

two-way messaging in real-time and/or non-real-time;

email in real-time and/or non-real-time;

a paging network in one-way and/or two-way in near-real-time; and

instant messaging systems in two-way in real-time.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said messaging clients engages in a dialogs with said automated agent.

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, said automated agent performing any of:

proactively sending, messages to said messaging client, said-messages comprising, but not limited to, alertings and reminders;
asking a series of questions to said messaging client to determine intent; and
determining resource availability.

25. (New) A robot agent for receiving Instant Messages from a first user-client and responsively interacting between the first user-client, a calendar server system, and other user-clients to enable each of the user-clients to enter queries and updating data into, and to receive queries and data from, the calendar server system.